

# *Minutes*

New Harmony Bicentennial Commission

March 20, 2012

6:00 p.m. Thralls Opera House

## **Present:**

American Legion Post 370	Charles Huck
Co-Chairperson	Ray McConnell
Co-Chairperson	Connie Weinzapfel
Community Member	David Flanders
Community Member	Liz Mumford
Garden Club of New Harmony	Dan Busler (Alt.)
Harmonie State Park	Jim Gray
Historic New Harmony	Christine Crews
New Harmony Business Associates	Lora Arneberg
New Harmony Interpreters Assoc.	Becky Smyth
New Harmony Ministerial Council	Phyllis Westfall
New Harmony Town Council	Don Gibbs
New Harmony Town Council	Linda Warrum (Alt.)
Parks & Recreation/Tree Board	Johnathan Scott
Public Relations	Karen Walker
Tri Kappa	Rita Reynolds
Under the Beams	Liz Mumford
University of Southern Indiana	Ed Jones
Executive Assistant	Jan Kahle
Community Member	David Campbell
Community Member	Vicki Campbell

## ***Organizations without a representative attending:***

Friends of the Working Men's Institute	Jeanne Maudlin
Masonic Lodge	Tom Straw
New Harmony Artist's Guild	Jenifer Blevins
New Harmony School Corporation/Alumni	Rick Johnson
Posey County Commissioners	Ann Greenfield
Red Geranium Enterprises	Judy Alsop

## ***Other organizations represented:***

Under the Beams	Liz Mumford
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The New Harmony Bicentennial Commission met on March 20, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Thralls Opera House. Co-chairperson, Connie Weinzapfel, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the December, 2011, meeting were approved.

The official Bicentennial logo (design submitted by Rita Davis) has been approved and will be used on all items related to the Bicentennial. This includes envelopes, letterhead, t-shirts, etc. A grant has been submitted to the Blaffer Foundation for the expense of paper products. The logos first appearance will be in the next issue of *Evansville Living* magazine. It will also be used in all future publicity. It is owned by the New Harmony Bicentennial Commission (it was recommended that it be trademarked to the Town of New Harmony since the Commission terminates the end of 2014) and there was discussion as to getting it as a registered trademark.

There were several new events submitted and discussed:

1. Liz Mumford will be producing Bicentennial notecards beginning in the fall of 2013. These will be available at various locations in town.
2. Representing "Under the Beams", Liz Mumford also announced that there will be a "Pure Gold" concert. Two "Pure Gold" winners will perform.
3. The USI Center for Communal studies will hold an academic conference in New Harmony. The date is to be determined; probably spring of 2014.
4. The New Harmony American Legion will provide a color guard and possibly a float for the Bicentennial parade and will hold an open house.
5. Becky Smyth, representing the "New Harmony Association of Interpreters" reported that this organization will be presenting a story teller on April 24, 2014. This storyteller will tell about Karl Bodmer and Prince Maximillian's trip through North America.
6. Ed Jones from USI reported that there are several proposals from departments at the University:
  - a. The geology/physics departments working with Historic New Harmony will refurbish the Keppler House and have a geologic exhibit based on William Maclure, David Dale Owen and other geologists in New Harmony's past. They are also supporting a move in the state house to have an "official" state fossil and will again sponsor an archaeology dig in the summer of 2014.
  - b. There will be a new writers' retreat focusing on college age writers.
  - c. The PE department will be working with the Boy Scouts.
  - d. Various other workshops and lectures. Most of these will be during the academic year. He will keep us informed as more proposals are received.
7. It was reported that the Indiana Historic Society's magazine *Traces* will have an issue focusing on the New Harmony Bicentennial.

A tentative calendar for 2014 was distributed. This is not firm and will require adjustments as new programs are approved.

There was some discussion about new programs and events:

1. Lora Arneberg suggested a house tour of old and new homes perhaps in October of 2014. Connie Weinzapfel offered Historic New Harmony's assistance with this event.
2. Dan Busler from the New Harmony Garden Club distributed a project concept for their refurbishing of Red Bud Park. It includes paths and benches as well as new plants.
3. Jim Gray from Harmonie State Park reported that the park will offer their usual events; Easter Egg hunt on April 19, 2014; a Luau in late July, the Harmonie Harvest Craft Fair in late September or early October and the Haunted Harmonie for Halloween 2014.
4. Phyllis Westfall representing the Ministerial Association reported that they will take care of the community church services at the Roofless Church at the beginning and end of the Capstone Week (Sunday, 8/3/14 and Sunday, 8/10/14).
5. Liz Mumford reported on the "Under the Beams" concerts that are scheduled January, February, March and April, 2014. In addition she suggested that perhaps a Wolfgang Concert in May and December.
6. The Blaffer Foundation is sponsoring a concert by the Evansville Philharmonic during the Capstone Week. They will perform Harmonist music arranged by Posey County native Phil Hageman.
7. Rita Reynolds and Liz Mumford have met to discuss music for the Bicentennial and the Bicentennial Pageant. They would like to have some kind of music event every month and something every day during the Capstone Week. This will include the Community Choir as well as other local musicians. They are also working to have a dance featuring dances from the Owen Period. The pageant will have to be "tweaked" to adapt it from 1914 to 2014. Connie Weinzapfel is going to put them in touch with a new USI history professor that has expressed interest in using her classes and the USI History Club to perhaps rewrite the pageant.

Other items discussed:

Nathan Maudlin asked about the possibility of getting a portable stage at Murphy Park. It was reported that there was money donated a few years ago for this project and the money is being held by Harmonie Associates. Ray McConnell will check on this. Nathan also asked about the possibility of using the balcony at Thralls. Connie Weinzapfel said that it was doubtful.

David Campbell reminded us that any meeting minutes that mention Senator Richard Lugar must be sent to his assistant.

David Flanders asked about the possibility of a Bicentennial speaker. Others reported that there have been some names mentioned but nothing definite yet. It is hoped that Senator Richard Lugar can be the speaker at the July 4 Celebration in 2014. David also reported on the postal cancellation for the Bicentennial. The process is proceeding. The cancellation can use the logo and will be used for 30 days. This can coincide with the Capstone Week. Stamps with the logo can be obtained via the internet.

Johnathan Scott representing the Parks Board reported that the search is in progress for suitable trees to be planted for the Bicentennial.

Lora Arneberg suggested that North Posey School District be contacted about participating in the Bicentennial Celebration since the New Harmony School students will be part of the North Posey Corporation. Jan Kahle will contact North Posey School District.

Charles Huck from the American Legion reiterated that the American Legion will have an Open House on August 3, 2014 with a free breakfast. They will also have a Veterans Day celebration in November, 2014. He asked about an exhibit of some kind at the Legion Hall representing the military past of New Harmony. Connie Weinzapfel will work with him on an exhibit detailing Richard Owen's military service.

Ray McConnell suggested that storefront businesses could display old photographs of their buildings.

Nathan Maudlin and Ray McConnell reminded the Commission that the theme for the Bicentennial Celebration is "Past, Present and Future" and that everyone should be thinking about a "legacy project".

David Campbell, President of the New Harmony Town Board, reported that Newwave is interested in installing equipment that would make Wi-Fi available in town. Connie Weinzapfel reported that the new exhibit at the Atheneum will be technology based and will serve both visitors and New Harmony citizens.

The next meeting will be June 19, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Thralls Opera House.